

NEWS RELEASE

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October 6, 2015

Man sentenced to life in prison for woman's murder during motel robbery

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Bobby Johnson will spend the rest of his life in prison for murdering a woman as he and two codefendants robbed a Charlotte motel. Johnson's trial, which began on September 28, 2015, ended today with a guilty verdict. The trial was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Johnson, 41, for first-degree murder. After a short deliberation, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Levinson sentenced Johnson to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

In the early morning hours of May 2, 2007, Johnson and his two codefendants, Antonio Lee Chaney and Joshua Raphael Chaney, went to the Thrift Motel on North Tryon Street to commit a robbery. The trio robbed two people outside of the motel, taking keys to the motel manager's apartment. When they entered the apartment, they struck Anita Jean Rychlik, 45, multiple times before shooting her in the back of the neck. Then, the men fled the scene.



Bobby Johnson

Johnson and his codefendants were arrested in 2011 after DNA evidence linked Johnson to the killing.

Antonio Chaney and Joshua Chaney, who testified at trial, previously pled guilty in connection with the murder. They will be sentenced at a later date.

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